

August Meeting

**Friday, August 19
7:30 pm**

Dodie Katague, Deputy D.A.

**Our Savior's Lutheran Church
1035 Carol Lane
Lafayette, CA**

Dodie will give a 90 minute presentation on Internet fraud.

Presidential QRM

By Trevor Hall, WA6JAU

August is the beginning of creating a ballot of officers for 2006. We have openings for President, Vice President, and two director positions. Please consider running for office, and send your nomination to me. If you want a better club, run for office.

July is vacation month, so if you have any great vacation experiences, send them to Jerry Gardner to be published in the *Carrier*. My great vacation experience was in Canada. My wife and I took a ride on the Rocky Mountaineer train from Vancouver to Banff. It is a two day journey on the train with an overnight stay in Kamloops, British Columbia. The tour ends with two nights in Banff, Alberta with a rental car. It is a fantastic trip that I can highly recommend. There are great IRLP nodes in Canada to stay in touch with your friends at home.

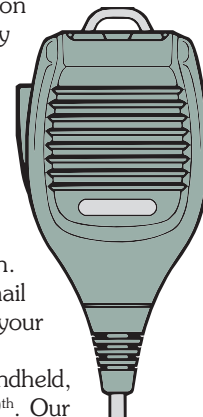
Thanks to Joe Cusumano, KF6RGH, for running the meeting in my absence. I have again received complements on last months meeting.

I am very sorry for the incorrect mailing of the *Carrier* last month. Apparently the printer made a mistake and no one caught it. The e-mail copies were the correct issue, please consider switching to receiving your *Carrier* by e-mail.

The raffle prize at the last meeting was an FT60R dual band handheld, and we will be raffling another one at the next meeting on August 19th. Our speaker will be giving a very informative talk on identity theft. Please plan on attending.

We are still looking for forum speakers at PACIFICON. If you have a topic you would like to share with everyone, please contact Rich Holoch, KY6R.

Again I would like to thank all that participated in Field Day, since my message in the July *Carrier* did not go out (to everyone). Thank you to Mark Burnham, KA6FEJ, and his family, Keith Lattin, N6PMF, Jim Tittle, K6SOE, Howard Burk, KE6PTT, Elizabeth & Lauren Styles, WA6CIE, and everyone that came up to the hill and participated.



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FCC Proposes to Drop Morse Code Requirement

NEWINGTON, CT, July 20, 2005—The FCC has proposed dropping the 5 WPM Morse code element as a requirement to obtain an Amateur Radio license of any class. The Commission recommended the change to its Part 97 Amateur Service rules in a Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NPRM) in WT Docket 05-235. Any rule changes proposed in the NPRM would not become final until the FCC gathers additional public comments, formally adopts any changes to its rules and concludes the proceeding by issuing a Report and Order (R&O) spelling out the changes and specifying an effective date. That's not likely to happen for several months. The FCC declined in its NPRM to go forward with any other suggested changes to Amateur Service licensing rules or operating privileges beyond elimination of the Morse requirement.

"Based upon the petitions and comments, we propose to amend our amateur service rules to eliminate the requirement that individuals pass a telegraphy examination in order to qualify for any amateur radio operator license," the FCC said in its NPRM, released July 19. This week's NPRM consolidated 18 petitions for rule making from the amateur community—including one from the ARRL—that proposed a wide range of additional changes to the amateur rules. The FCC said the various petitions had attracted 6200 comments from the amateur community, which soon will have the opportunity to comment again—this time on the FCC's proposals in response to those petitions.

The Commission said it believes dropping Element 1—the 5 WPM Morse examination—would "encourage individuals who are interested in communications technology,

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Mt. Diablo Amateur Radio Club W6CX

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The *Carrier* is a monthly publication of the Mount Diablo Amateur Radio Club (MDARC). It is the policy of the editor to publish all material submitted by the membership provided such material is in good taste, relevant to amateur radio and of interest to MDARC members, and space is available.

All material must be submitted to the editor by the first day of the month of publication. Material is accepted on a first-in, first-out basis. Articles and other material may be submitted via Internet email to carrier@gardnerclan.net or delivered to the editor at the address listed in the club roster. Material will be accepted in plain ASCII or rich text format (RTF). Material may also be submitted as hardcopy.

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General Meeting Minutes

July 15, 2005

The membership meeting of Mt. Diablo Amateur Radio Club, held on July 15, 2005 at Our Savior's Lutheran Church, 1050 Carol Lane, Lafayette, was called to order by vice president, Joe Cusumano, at 7:30 p.m. The minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

Treasurer's Report: Dick Schulze reported a balance on hand of \$40,776.39.

New Members: The new members present were introduced, Mark Burnham, and Tom Deeble, KA6SIP.

Committee Reports: John Schulze updated PACIFICON; Mike Patterson discussed future emergency preparedness meetings; Terry Matzkin reminded the members he has magnetic signs available; Trevor Raty discussed the new 2M isolator.

Speaker: Bob Uhrhammer, WB6VEX, seismologist at the UC Berkeley's Seismology Lab gave another of his extremely entertaining and informative talks on tsunamis and related earthquake activities.

Adjourned: The meeting was adjourned at 9:10.

Dick Schulze, AA6DL, Secretary pro tem.

Board Meeting Minutes

August 1, 2005

President Trevor Hall, WA6JAU, called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

Board Members present: Pres. Trevor Hall, Secretary Paul Dickey, N6JOX, Treasurer Dick Schulze, AA6DL, Emergency Coordinator Dana Jones, K6BRR, and Bob Green, K6GD, and Past President Terry Matzkin, KE6WRE. Other club members and guests: Membership Chairman Pete Slagle, K6XL, Chief Technician Keith Lattin, N6PMF, and Member Mike Hole, KG6DER.

The minutes of the July 5th meeting were APPROVED.

Treasurer Dick Schulze REPORTED a balance of \$39,895, total of all accounts, without including accrued interest not reported on the cd. The Club is slightly over budget, due to an unanticipated expense. The budget did not account for a delayed 2004 payment for the mailing of the *Carrier*. Therefore, the delayed payment needed to be made, as well as a change to the 2005 budget, which had assumed the lower 2004 cost. As a result of accounting for both those amounts, the Board RECOMMENDED to the membership a change to the budget from \$650 to \$1900 to cover the total 2005 costs of printing and mailing the *Carrier*. Membership approval will be sought at the next Club meeting.

Old Business:

- President Trevor Hall COMPLIMENTED both Keith and Mark Burnham, KA6FEJ for holding down expenses for Field Day. Expenses may be under \$200.
- The Club trailer was used to participate at the Solano County fair, July 16-17 at the Vallejo fairgrounds. Trevor NOTED that it was now in Vallejo for cleaning and return to Contra Costa.
- Keith REPORTED the isolator for the 2m repeater is all set to go to the hill.

New Business:

- Keith REPORTED that another repeater had been coordinated by NARCC, in spite of our previous communications, even though it is only 15kc apart from W6CX input, and only 87 miles line of sight. Keith will communicate immediately with NARCC.
- Trevor ANNOUNCED the formation of a Nominating Committee, which so far is composed of himself and Eoin O'Donoghue, KK6Q. Other names were proposed.
- Dana REPORTED that the special RACES/ARES site test on July 21th was very successful. Over 90% of the Central County stations were heard by OES Martinez. Also, a special RACES/ARES call-out for assistance

and cache management at the Briones search sites resulted in 19 members assisting.

- Trevor received the CONCURRENCE of the Board with keeping the dues schedule the same for next year, in order that additional application blanks can be printed.
 - Bob ALERTED the Board that the Club picnic would be held on Sept. 24, with new and exciting events.
- President Trevor Hall adjourned the meeting at 8:22 p.m.
Respectfully submitted, Paul Dickey N6JOX, Secretary

FCC Proposes to Drop Morse Code

Continued from page 1

or who are able to contribute to the advancement of the radio art, to become amateur radio operators." The FCC said it also would eliminate a requirement it believes "is now unnecessary and that may discourage" current licensees from advancing their skills, and that it would "promote more efficient use" of current Amateur Radio spectrum.

The FCC cited changes in Article 25 of the international Radio Regulations adopted at World Radiocommunication Conference 2003 as the primary reason to go forward with eliminating Morse code as an Amateur Radio licensing requirement in the future. Among other changes, WRC-03 deleted the Morse testing requirement for amateur applicants seeking HF privileges, leaving it up to individual countries to determine whether or not they want to mandate Morse testing. Several countries already have dropped their Morse requirements.

ARRL CEO David Sumner, K1ZZ, said he was not surprised that the FCC proposed altogether scrapping the Morse code requirement. The League and others had called for retaining the 5 WPM requirement only for Amateur Extra class applicants. Sumner expressed dismay, however, that the FCC turned away proposals from the League and other petitioners to create a new entry-level Amateur Radio license class.

"We're disappointed that the Commission prefers to deny an opportunity to give Amateur Radio the restructuring it needs for the 21st century," he said. "It appears that the Commission is taking the easy road, but the easy road is seldom the right road."

Sumner said ARRL officials and the Board of Directors would closely study the 30-page NPRM and plan to comment further after they've had the opportunity to consider the Commission's stated rationales for its proposals.

In 2004, the ARRL filed a Petition for Rule Making asking the FCC to amend Part 97 to complete the Amateur Service restructuring begun in 1999 but "left unfinished." The League called on the FCC to create a new entry-level license, reduce the number of actual license classes to three and drop the Morse code testing requirement for all classes except for Amateur Extra. Among other recommendations, the League asked the FCC to automatically upgrade Technician licensees to General and Advanced licensees to Amateur Extra. In this week's NPRM, the FCC said it was not persuaded such automatic upgrades were in the public interest.

The FCC said it did not believe a new entry-level license class was warranted because current Novice and Tech Plus licensees already can easily upgrade to General. "We also note that, if our proposal to eliminate telegraphy testing in the amateur

service is adopted," the FCC continued, "a person who is not a licensee will be able to qualify for a General Class operator license by passing two written examinations, and that a person who is a Technician Class licensee will be able to qualify for a General Class operator license by passing one written examination." The FCC said it does not believe either path to be unreasonable.

The FCC also said that it's already addressed some of the other issues petitioners raised in its "Phone Band Expansion" (or "Omnibus") NPRM in WT Docket 04-140. In that proceeding, the Commission proposed to go along with the ARRL's Novice refarming proposal aimed at reallocating the current Novice/Tech Plus subbands to provide additional phone spectrum. Under the plan, Novice/Tech Plus licensees would be granted CW privileges in the current General CW subbands.

A 60-day period for members of the public to comment on the FCC's NPRM in WT 05-235 will begin once the NPRM

PCSat2 Installed on ISS

(NEWINGTON, CT Aug 3, 2005)—The PCSat2 Amateur Radio package has been installed on the exterior of the International Space Station (ISS) as Materials International Space Station Experiment 5 (MISSE5). Astronaut Soichi Noguchi, KD5TVP (NASA TV photo), unfolded the suitcase-like Passive Experiment Container (PEC) holding PCSat2 and other experiments mounted atop the ISS P6 truss structure at around 1110 UTC August 3 during a space walk with Astronaut Steve Robinson. Noguchi deployed the "tape measure" antennas by pulling up a couple of Mylar strips that allowed the antennas to pop out. Built by US Naval Academy students under the guidance of APRS guru Bob Bruninga, WB4APR, PCSat2 will operate in cooperation with the Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) program. It will provide a 10-meter PSK31 multi-user transponder, an FM voice repeater for possible use with ISS crew members and an AX.25 packet system for use as a UI digipeater and for telemetry, command, control. Bruninga says PCSat2 may be ready for use within a few days, but he asks that stations not attempt to use the system until it's been checked out and an announcement made. In the meantime, Bruninga has invited well-equipped ground stations to help capture early telemetry on the alternate downlink of 437.975 MHz during PCSat2's first few days of activation. Telemetry will be at 1200 and 9600 baud. E-mail telemetry files to pc2@grc.nasa.gov. Bruninga also has asked 1200 baud IGates or SATgates to monitor 437.975 MHz and feed the global APRS system live telemetry page. PCSat2's primary downlink frequency is 435.275 MHz; the packet digipeater up and downlink frequency is 145.825 MHz. More information is on the USNA Web site. Bruninga says the UHF downlink is only 1 W and will require a beam to hear it.

For Sale

HW-8 Heathbit four band CW QRPP rig. Have AC power supply, manual, and lots of extras. This rig has been modified and I have the articles on the modifications.
Contact Dennis, WD6DSG, on 676-9102.

RACES Training Schedule August-September 2005

Date	Location	Subject
August 20	Driftwood Yacht Club, Oakley	RACES Basic Training
September 17	Martinez Marina Park, Martinez	Potluck & Transmitter Hunt

Be sure to verify the time and place of training on the countywide RACES net on the Thursday evening prior to the event. The countywide net airs at 7:20 PM on 147.735 Central County, 145.410 South County and 145.490 West County.

There are 77 sites throughout Contra Costa County that can be activated in times of an emergency. Thursday, July 21, 2005, will be the "All Sites Activation Net". Please check with your local EC or ADEC if you can volunteer to activate one of these sites. For a list of sites please contact John Pascale nn6e@arrl.net.

Amateurs to get "New" FM Satellite

(NEWINGTON, CT Aug 3, 2005)—PO-28 (POSAT-1)—Portugal's first satellite, launched 12 years ago—will be turned over to Amateur Radio use in the very near future. That was the word this past weekend from AMSAT-UK Secretary Jim Heck, G3WGM, during the AMSAT-UK International Space Colloquium in Guildford, England. Launched September 25, 1993, the satellite operated as a packet store-and-forward BBS (9600 baud FM FSK) on Amateur Radio frequencies for several weeks in early 1994. Over the years, PO-28's primary usage has been commercial, although plans have called for eventually shifting its operation to ham radio use. G3WGM reports that following lengthy negotiations it has been agreed that the satellite can be switched permanently to amateur frequencies. The changeover is expected to take a couple of weeks. The Portuguese satellite was built at the University of Surrey as part of a collaborative satellite technology program that involved industry and academia. Uplink frequencies will be 145.925 and 145.975 MHz. Downlink frequencies will be 435.075 and 435.275 MHz.

Radio Amateur Loses Life

(NEWINGTON, CT Aug 3, 2005)—An Ohio radio amateur died July 30 while attempting to perform a public service for his county's RACES/ARES program. Preble County RACES Radio Officer Robert W. "Bob" French II, N8EHA, of Eaton was on a tower at the New Paris fire station installing an antenna for the RACES/ARES program when the antenna came into contact with a power line. The shock knocked French from the tower, and he reportedly fell some 40 feet to the ground. He was pronounced dead a short time later. French, 51, belonged to the ARRL. He was a founding member of the Preble Amateur Radio Association and very active in the club. "He was one of the biggest advocates for Amateur Radio I have known," said Gary Hollenbaugh, NJ8BB, who will eulogize his friend at an August 3 service. "His leadership, organizational skills, knowledge and enthusiasm cannot be easily replaced." French was employed as an electronics engineer for Spectral Systems of Dayton. Survivors include his wife Cathy, KA8RWX, and their daughter and son. The family invites memorial contributions to the Preble Amateur Radio Association, 7810 US Hwy 35 E, W Alexandria, OH 45381.—*information supplied by Gary Hollenbaugh, NJ8BB, and Dayton Daily News*

Ramblings from the Editor

By Jerry Gardner, W6UV

Those of you who still get the *Carrier* via the mail may have noticed that you received the May issue instead of the July issue last month. Kinkos goofed and printed the wrong issue, and no one noticed it. Oops! From now on, we'll be sure to check the entire print run to make sure this doesn't happen again.

Anyone interested in reading the July issue can find it at <http://gardnerclan.net/Carrier/July2005/CarrierJuly2005HiRes.pdf>.



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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

August 1	7:00 pm	MDARC Board Meeting	Carl's Jr. 2280 Oakgrove, Walnut Creek
August 19	7:30 pm	MDARC General Meeting	Our Savior's Lutheran Church
August 31		September <i>Carrier</i> Deadline	
September 5	7:00 pm	MDARC Board Meeting	Carl's Jr. 2280 Oakgrove, Walnut Creek
Thursday Evenings	7:30 pm	MDARC Club Net	147.06 & 441.325 MHz

The Carrier
Newsletter of the Mt. Diablo Amateur Radio Club
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Change in Service Requested

MDARC General Meeting: August 19th